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The situation in the Middle East

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Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 17 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to my previous letters on the same subject, I have the honour to convey to you hereunder a list of the violations and infringements that were committed by Israel against Lebanon in the period from 1 to 15 January 2001. They include the detonation of landmines left behind by the Israeli occupation, which injured one citizen and caused serious damage. Lebanon regards these incidents as an extension of Israel's aggression against its people and territory.

1 January 2001

Between 1020 and 1125 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Mount Lebanon, the North and the South at very high altitudes.

Between 1220 and 1245 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Mount Lebanon, the North and the South at very high altitudes.

Between 1315 and 1320 hours Israeli forces at the Aramta hill outpost in the occupied Shab`a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire at surrounding areas.

Between 1730 and 1740 Israeli forces at the Ruwaysat al-Alam outpost in the occupied Shab`a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire at surrounding areas.

Between 2200 and 2210 hours two Israeli helicopters flew along the Lebanese border over the occupied territories opposite Ra's al-Naqurah before heading towards the sea.

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2 January 2001

Between 1050 and 1145 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tibnin and Bint Jubayl areas at very high altitude.

At 1340 hours Israeli forces fired several bursts of light automatic-weapons fire towards the high ground along the blue line in an outlying areas of Ayta al-Sha`b. An Israeli helicopter also hovered over the same area on the side towards the occupied territories for five minutes.

At 2045 hours Israeli forces at the Ruwaysat al-Alam and Ramta hill outposts in the occupied Shab`a farmlands launched two illumination flares and directed several bursts of medium-weapons fire towards the surrounding area.

3 January 2001

At 0700 hours Israeli forces fired several 155-mm artillery shells and 120-mm mortar rounds towards the occupied Shab`a farmlands from their outposts at Ayn al-Tinah, Mazra`at Fashkul and Ruwaysat al-Alam. Some 100 goats belonging to Muhammad Abd Allah Zuhrah from Shab`a town were killed.

At 1100 hours an anti-personnel landmine exploded in Sujud while Najib Daqmaq, a native and resident of Nabatiyah born in 1962, was working on a tract of land with a bulldozer. No one was injured and there was no damage.

4 January 2001

In the morning Israeli forces were seen pouring concrete at their Mazra`at Fashkul outpost in the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Israeli forces again raised a balloon over their outpost opposite Markaba (outpost 320).

5 January 2001

Between 1140 and 1155 hours two explosions and several bursts of medium-weapons fire were heard inside the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Between 1215 and 1245 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

7 January 2001

Between 1600 and 1630 hours Israeli forces blasted some rocks at their outpost at Mazra`at Fashkul in the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

8 January 2001

Between 1000 and 1115 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and the Shuf at moderate to very high altitudes.

At 2000 hours three artillery shells fired from Israeli enemy positions in the occupied territories impacted in an outlying area of Mazra`at al-Majidiyah in the liberated zone.

9 January 2001

At 1000 hours an Israeli helicopter landed at occupied Summaqah outpost in an outlying area of Kafr Shuba in Hasbayya district.

At 2210 hours an Israeli gunboat in Israeli territorial waters off Naqurah fired several bursts of medium-machine-gun fire towards the shore.

At 1030 hours movement of Israeli military vehicles was reported at the occupied Ruwaysat al-Alam outpost in an outlying area of Kafr Shuba in Hasbayya district.

Between 1045 and 1050 hours Israeli forces strafed the areas around their outposts at Summaqah hill and Ramta hill in the occupied Shab'a farmlands with medium-weapons fire.

At 1110 and 1130 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the Summaqah, Ruwaysat al-Alam and Birkat al-Naqqar outposts in the occupied Shab'a farmlands. [They strafed surrounding areas] with medium-machine-gun fire, and five explosions were heard near the Birkat al-Naqqar outpost.

Between 1225 and 1320 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South, the Bekaa, the North and Mount Lebanon, breaking the sound barrier.

At 1210 hours two explosions were heard at the Ruwaysat al-Alam outpost in an outlying area of Kafr Shuba. This was followed by several bursts of machine-gun fire.

At 1740 hours unusual movements by Israeli military vehicles were noted at the occupied Summaqah and Ruwaysat al-Alam outposts in an outlying area of Kafr Shuba in Hasbayya district.

10 January 2001

At 1300 hours a landmine exploded as Ali Hamzah Sa'adah of Arabsalim was working on a bulldozer in Sujud. He was injured and taken to the hospital in Nabatiyah for medical attention.

At 2315 hours Israeli forces fired several 81-mm mortar rounds at areas around their outpost at Summaqah hill in the occupied Shab'a farmlands from one of their outposts in the same area.

11 January 2001

At 1745 hours Israeli forces blasted some rocks alon the road leading to Mount Hermon (Jabal al-Shaykh) south of Majidiyah in the occupied territories in order to widen the carriageway.

12 January 2001

At 1720 hours Israeli forces at the Summaqah outpost launched two illumination flares over the surrounding area.

At 1745 and 1915 hours an Israeli gunboat offshore and outside Lebanese territorial waters launched three illumination flares over the sea off Ra's al-Naqurah.

13 January 2001

At 1755 hours an Israeli gunboat in Israeli territorial waters off Ra's al-Naqurah launched an illumination flare over the sea.

Between 1935 and 1950 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the territory along the Lebanese border opposite Risha, Yarun and Marun al-Ras.

Between 1200 and 1800 hours an Israeli bulldozer carried out excavation work between the Mazra'at Fashkul outpost and the Ramta hill outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

At 2000 hours an Israeli helicopter flew over the Abu Shinan slope in an outlying area of Rumaysh in Bint Jubayl district.

At 2015 hours movement of Israeli vehicles was reported between Al-Jiwar al-Qadim (between Rumaysh and Yarun) and the Abu Shinan slope. Searchlights were also in evidence.

Israeli forces erected concertina-type barbed-wire defences around the Himari gate (No. 43), in an outlying part of the Wazzani area, and the Dawawir gate, in an outlying area of Hunin.

14 January 2001

At 0855 and 1235 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and the Western Bekaa at very high altitudes, releasing heat balloons in the Hasbayya area.

At 1050 and 1225 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tyre area at very high altitude.

At 1145 hours Israeli forces at the Ramta hill outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands directed several bursts of medium-weapons fire at the surrounding area.

At 1300 and 1445 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South, the Western Bekaa, the North and Mount Lebanon at very high altitudes, breaking the sound barrier everywhere.

At 1340 and 1400 hours Israeli forces at the Summaqah hill and Ramta hill outposts in the occupied Shab'a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire at surrounding areas.

15 January 2001

At 1330 hours, 1445 hours and intermittently Israeli warplanes overflew all parts of Lebanon at very high altitudes.

Between 1800 and 1835 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Bint Jubayl and Tibnin areas at very high altitudes.

At 1840 hours Israeli forces at the Summaqah hill outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands launched two illumination flares over the surrounding area.

Like the previous Israeli violations of which it represents a continuation, this latest series is in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and of Lebanon's sovereignty and poses a threat to stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative